

# TRIBUTE TO HERBERT BRUCE CLEVELAND

•Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I wish today to recognize Herbert Bruce Cleveland of Rapid City, SD, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of ordination in the Lutheran ministry. Herb has developed a distinguished career in the ministry, both as a local pastor ministering to the needs of South Dakotans dating back to the 1950s and on a national level, having been appointed to numerous capacities in the Department of Veterans Affairs by three Presidents.

Born in North Dakota and a graduate of the University of North Dakota and University of Michigan, Herb joined the U.S. Army in October 1952 and completed various stateside and international duty assignments. Shortly after becoming ordained as a Lutheran pastor, Herb came to western South Dakota in 1959 and immediately developed a close working relationship with the families in the Homestake Gold Mine in Lead. After ministering to the needs of hospitalized parishioners at the nearby veterans hospital at Fort Meade, he served veterans at the VA Hospital in a full-time capacity in the early 1960s, a relationship with veterans that continues today. Herb has witnessed the impacts of war on soldiers and their families, and he has met these challenges with professionalism, commitment, and dedication.

He led local and national efforts to develop a system to address post traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and psycho-social issues. He established the first substance abuse treatment center at the Fort Meade VA Chapel. He developed a strong bond with Native American veterans, working to add a Lakota chaplain to the VA staff and the initiation of Lakota worship services and events such as powwows and sweat lodge experiences.

He worked tirelessly to address the evolving needs of veterans and their families while continuing a strong presence in Black Hills communities, assisting in youth and community events and fundraisers. In 1983, the Veterans' Administration established new leadership in the chaplains service in Washington, DC, and summoned Herb, who had been working with South Dakota veterans for 20 years, to become the new Deputy Chief of Chaplains. In this position, he served as Human Resource Director and Educational Development Director and became increasingly involved in the ecumenical relations with all the faiths that were held by members of the Armed Forces. He recruited minority chaplains to serve the increasing number of minorities serving in the Armed Forces and veterans in the VA system.

He developed numerous institutes of training to address the needs of disabled veterans and worked to educate and identify the unique issues impacting young veterans, older veterans, and women veterans. Until his term in Washington, the chaplaincy had been

exclusively male, and Herb recruited a number of women chaplains to serve the growing numbers of women veterans. He helped create the Chaplains School, which among its many missions was providing professional training to women chaplains.

President Reagan appointed Herb as Chief of Chaplains in 1988, becoming the first Lutheran and first clergy member from South Dakota named to such a capacity. He served in this position during President George Herbert Walker Bush's Presidential term.

As national VA chaplain, Herb and his wife Connie participated in the international exchange of choral and symphonic music, which helped foster better cultural and artistic understanding among numerous nations. Herb would oversee the largest single trip of a choir of 150 voices that accompanied the national VA symphony that performed with the Russian Army Chorus in Moscow and St. Petersburg on the first anniversary of freedom.

Chaplain Cleveland was then appointed by President Bill Clinton as Director of Ethics for Health Care Management, where he would continue to address the health and faith challenge and issues affecting our Nation's veterans.

After a decade of valued service in Washington, DC, Chaplain Cleveland and his wife returned to South Dakota in retirement. As a volunteer, Herb continues to service funerals, memorial services, weddings, and reunions. During 3 years of peak deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, Herb served as chaplain to the National Guard and Army Reserve cadets at the Fort Meade officers training facility.

Also in retirement, he has established mission tours to Southeast Asia with trips to China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar. These people-to-people visits emphasize and foster understanding of different cultures. He was recognized by the president of Payap University in Thailand with the Distinguished Alumni Award for his missionary work. This award is among numerous important recognitions for Chaplain Cleveland. These honors include the Point of Light Award from President George H. W. Bush for his work with homeless veterans; the Exceptional Service Award from the VA Secretary for service to the Nation's veterans; the National Black Chaplains of America Award for Exceptional Service to America's Veterans, and he was nominated by Coretta Scott King to serve on the National Steering Committee for Chaplains at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center in Atlanta in 1986. He also received the ELCA Award for Exceptional Service while serving the Lutheran Church and the Chaplaincy in America. His most recent honor was notification of induction into the South Dakota Hall of Fame with ceremonies this September.

Over the years, Chaplain Cleveland has maintained a steadfast commit-

ment to his faith and God and has continued to fulfill a lifelong mission to address the emotional and spiritual needs of veterans and their families. He remains firmly rooted in his family and his community and understands the importance of service. I consider myself very fortunate and blessed to have known and worked with him in various endeavors during my years in Congress.

I want to wish Chaplain Cleveland a heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of his 50 years of service in the Lutheran ministry and for his many years of great service to veterans, their families, and to this Nation. I also wish him many more years of continued service in his many endeavors in the Black Hills region.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## TRANSMITTING THREE VOLUMES COMPLETING THE BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010: UPDATED SUMMARY TABLES MAY 2009, ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVES, AND HISTORICAL TABLES—PM 18

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on the Budget; and Appropriations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the following volumes, which together complete my Fiscal Year 2010 Budget: Analytical Perspectives, Historical Tables, and Updated Summary Tables.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 11, 2009.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1014. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to make